

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCEM-02 FAA-00 INT-08 SCI-06

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /150 W

----- 114544

R 291455Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8985

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG ETRN SF

SUBJ: FUEL SHORTAGE HITS CHARTER FLIGHTS

1. SAG ACTED AFTERNOON NOVEMBER 27 TO BAN SALE OF AVIATION FUEL GRADE 100/130 FOR OTHER THAN SCHEDULED FLIGHTS, CROP SPRAYING, POLICE AND MILITARY SERVICES, AND AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES. JET AND TURBO-PROP FUEL NOT RPT NOT AFFECTED. PRESS REPORTS THAT OIL COMPANIES WILL APPLY BAN IN BOTSWANA, LESOTHO AND SWAZILAND.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS, OIL COMPANY OFFICIALS BLAME IMMEDIATE CRISIS ON DELAYED ARRIVAL OF IRANIAN TANKER BRINGING REFINED AVIATION FUEL. THEY ANTICIPATE THAT SITUATION WILL BE RESTORED TO NEAR NORMAL WITHIN NEXT MONTH. HOWEVER, PRESS ALSO REPORTS GOVT. SPOKESMAN WARNING THAT THERE MAY BE FURTHER CUTBACKS ON LIGHT AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS IN VIEW WORLD-WIDE

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SHORTAGE OF CERTAIN TYPES OF AVIATION FUEL.

3. SHORTNESS OF NOTICE WAS SURPRISE AND SHOCK TO BOTH OIL COMPANY AND FLIGHT OPERATORS. CHARTER COMPANIES ARE PRIME VICTIMS WITH MANY PLANES AND PASSENGERS STRANDED. SERIOUSNESS OF SHORTAGE EMPHASIZED TO EMBASSY WHEN ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE FUEL FOR CODEL DIGGS CHARTER. AFTER FIRST NOTIFYING EMBASSY THAT NECESSARY FUEL WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE, DEPT FON AFFAIRS FORCED WITHDRAW OFFER BECAUSE, FOLLOWING INVENTORY OF STOCKS OVER COUNTRY, RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES NOT RPT NOT SURE WHETHER SUFFICIENT FUEL THIS GRADE AVAILABLE SUPPORT MERCY AND OTHER ESSENTIAL SERVICES. (CODEL CHARTER CLEARED ON BASIS AIRCRAFT LOCATED WITH FULL TANKS.)
HURD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PRETOR04360
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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